



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Afghan officials, Army Corps of Engineers to launch streetlight project Tuesday

KABUL, Afghanistan – Kabul Mayor Muhammad Yunus Nawandish and other Afghan and U.S. officials will unveil a pilot project to install solar-powered streetlights along a one-kilometer portion of one of Kabul's most important commercial corridors.

The officials will break ground and discuss the project at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2010, in the street near the Jumhoriyat National Specialized Hospital. Local and international media representatives are invited to cover the event.

The project calls for 28 solar-powered streetlights to be installed in the median of the road between the hospital and the Sherpoor traffic circle in the heart of downtown. The goal of the project is to support economic development by creating new nighttime commerce.

The mayor's office, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is working with the firm Sustainable Energy Services Afghanistan to install the light poles. All 28 poles are projected to be installed and operational by the end of the year.

"Lighting is essential to improving the quality of life throughout Afghanistan," Mayor Nawandish said. "I'm proud that Kabul City is leading the way down the path to renewable energy for our country."

With more than 300 days of sunlight a year, Kabul is an ideal location for solar powered streetlights, according to the Army Corps of Engineers. The project is being funded through the Commander's Emergency Response Program at the direction of Col. Thomas H. Magness, commander of Army Corps of Engineers' district in northern Afghanistan.

WHAT: Groundbreaking of a solar lighting pilot program in Kabul.

WHO: Kabul Mayor Muhammad Yunus Nawandish and other Afghan and U.S. officials.

WHERE: In the street outside the Jumhoriyat National Specialized Hospital in downtown Kabul.

WHEN: 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2010.

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